AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a wheel brake of a vehicle, the method comprising:

determining a road slope;

determining whether a brake pedal is depressed and whether a parking brake is engaged;

maintaining a braking force at a wheel independently of an extent of a brake pedal actuation, in at least one operating state with one of the brake pedal depressed and the parking brake engaged, if the road slope points in a direction of a future travel direction of the vehicle; ~~and~~

monitoring for braking pressure losses while the braking force is maintained; compensating for the braking pressure losses; and

reducing the braking force for at least one condition.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the braking force is maintained if at least one of the following is satisfied: a drive unit is running; the vehicle is at a complete standstill; and a gear is engaged.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the braking force is reduced if at least one of the following is recognized: a driver acts to make a standing start; a neutral gear is engaged; and the road slope is no longer in a travel direction.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the braking force is reduced if the brake pedal is released.

Claims 5 to 10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) A storage medium for storing at least one computer program, wherein the at least one stored computer program is operable for

executing in a computing unit a method for controlling a wheel brake of a vehicle, the method comprising:

determining a road slope;

determining whether a brake pedal is depressed and whether a parking brake is engaged;

maintaining a braking force at a wheel independently of an extent of a brake pedal actuation, in at least one operating state with one of the brake pedal depressed and the parking brake engaged, if the road slope points in a direction of a future travel direction of the vehicle; ~~and~~

monitoring for braking pressure losses while the braking force is maintained;

compensating for the braking pressure losses; and

reducing the braking force for at least one condition.

Claims 12 and 13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a wheel brake of a vehicle, the method comprising:

determining a road slope;

determining whether at least one of a brake pedal is depressed and a parking brake is engaged, both the brake pedal in a depressed state and the parking brake in an engaged stated producing a braking force;

maintaining [[a]] the braking force at a wheel independently of an extent of a brake pedal actuation, in at least one operating state with one of the brake pedal depressed and the parking brake engaged, if the road slope points in a direction of a future travel direction of the vehicle; ~~and~~

monitoring for braking pressure losses while the braking force is maintained;

compensating for the braking pressure losses; and

reducing the braking force for at least one condition.

15. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling a wheel brake of a vehicle, the method comprising:

determining a road slope;

determining whether a brake pedal is depressed;

determining whether a parking brake is engaged if it is determined that the brake pedal is not depressed;

maintaining a braking force at a wheel independently of an extent of a brake pedal actuation, in at least one operating state with one of the brake pedal depressed and the parking brake engaged, if the road slope points in a direction of a future travel direction of the vehicle; and

reducing the braking force for at least one condition.

16. (Currently Amended) A storage medium for storing at least one computer program, wherein the at least one stored computer program is operable for executing in a computing unit a method for controlling a wheel brake of a vehicle, the method comprising:

determining a road slope;

determining whether at least one of a brake pedal is depressed and a parking brake is engaged, both the brake pedal in a depressed state and the parking brake in an engaged stated producing a braking force;

maintaining [[a]] the braking force at a wheel independently of an extent of a brake pedal actuation, in at least one operating state with one of the brake pedal depressed and the parking brake engaged, if the road slope points in a direction of a future travel direction of the vehicle; and

monitoring for braking pressure losses while the braking force is maintained;

compensating for the braking pressure losses; and

reducing the braking force for at least one condition.

17. (Previously Presented) A storage medium for storing at least one computer program, wherein the at least one stored computer program is operable for executing in a computing unit a method for controlling a wheel brake of a vehicle, the method comprising:

determining a road slope;

determining whether a brake pedal is depressed;

determining whether a parking brake is engaged if it is determined that the brake pedal is not depressed;

maintaining a braking force at a wheel independently of an extent of a brake pedal actuation, in at least one operating state with one of the brake pedal

depressed and the parking brake engaged, if the road slope points in a direction of a future travel direction of the vehicle; and

reducing the braking force for at least one condition.

18. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining whether the vehicle has come to a complete stop and maintaining the braking force at a wheel independently of an extent of a brake pedal actuation, in at least one operating state with one of the brake pedal depressed and the parking brake engaged, if the road slope points in a direction of a future travel direction of the vehicle and if the vehicle is at a complete stop.

19. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining whether the vehicle has come to a complete stop and maintaining the braking force at a wheel independently of an extent of a brake pedal actuation, in at least one operating state with one of the brake pedal depressed and the parking brake engaged, if the road slope points in a direction of a future travel direction of the vehicle and if the vehicle is at a complete stop.